

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend from North York (Mr. Mulock) has engrossed a good deal of attention in this House, has had his say, and for two mortal hours I sat in my seat last night listening to him, as he spoke, and spoke, and spoke, and I tried to find out what he said; I tried to lodge all that was pertinent, and I think I have, and you could lodge it all on the point of a needle. I did not interrupt him, and so I say that the Indians to vote must have the qualifications, as a white man must have the qualifications.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No, no.

Mr. FOSTER. There is no other intention, and if hon. gentlemen had not a political purpose to serve you would never hear them coming to such extravagant conclusions as that all the wild Indians in the country are to be enfranchised by the Bill. We are here simply defining the persons who come under the term Indian, and when the appropriate qualification clause comes up, it will be time enough to amend it, if, by any possibility, the wild Indians to whom hon. gentlemen opposite refer are included in it. Having read this Bill through I fail to see where it allows those savage hordes of Indians to become enfranchised; but if, when the qualification clauses are reached, it is shown to my satisfaction that such is the case, I will join hon. gentlemen opposite in preventing any such possibility occurring. Hon. gentlemen opposite have spoken of the Indians as the paupers of the white people, as the analogues of the workhouse poor of Great Britain. I take exception to that description. Long before the white men came to this country, who lived on these wide plains, who hunted over these mountains, who fished on these lakes, lords of all these lands and all these waters, but the ancestors of the same red men whom hon. gentlemen opposite to-day call paupers, living on the charity of the white men? We have taken from the Indians their fishing grounds, we have taken their hunting lands, we have encroached on their reserves; the time has come when, in the march of civilisation, even the buffalo have left the great plains, and it is not upon the bounty doled out by the white people that the Indians are living. It is but an infinitesimal part of their own rights, which they have surrendered to us, that we return to them. I am not the man to stand up here and taunt the red men with being paupers on the bounty of the white men, and still less to say that when the Indian proves himself honest, earnest, wage-worthy, and, as a man, aspires to the right of manhood and citizenship, the best and dearest right to which a man can aspire, he should not be given the franchise. I believe that a Franchise Bill of this nature is within the power of this Parliament. I believe that in the British North America Act it is expressly pointed out as one of the powers which should be taken and exercised by this Parliament. It is not a shadow of an argument to say that because we have not exercised that power hitherto we should not exercise it now. That kind of argument would be the death blow to all progress. The time has now come, as we knew it inevitably would, some time in the history of the country, when Parliament should exercise this power which was expressly pointed out as coming within its jurisdiction at the time Confederation was formed. The exercise of this power is not an infringement on provincial rights. If we attempted to fix the franchise in any Province for its own legislation, that would be an act of tyranny, an act outside the jurisdiction of this Parliament; but to say that we shall not fix, in this broad Dominion, irrespective of the Provinces, a basis of the franchise upon which members to this Parliament should be elected, is to say something that to my mind has no foundation in common sense. As to the question of expediency, there is ground for difference on that, but when I see how intensely anxious hon. gentlemen on the other side are, lest the

revision of the voters' lists should be properly and honestly made, I cannot help coming to the conclusion that they are afraid they will lose by that honest and impartial revision something which hitherto they have been able to keep. This Bill may be objected to on the ground of expense, but there can be no doubt that it is clearly within our jurisdiction. No man can say anything against a revision which begins with the assessors' list, which is carried out with the utmost publicity before a competent legal revisor, and with the assistance of competent legal help, and then goes before a tribunal as high as the county judge on questions of both law and fact. I say it cannot surely be contended that any honest man has anything to fear from such a revision of the voters' list. It is not worthy of argument that to say that because the revision will be made by county judges and revising barristers, who may be county judges, and who, in the main, I believe, will be county judges—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. FOSTER. To say that because that is the case there will be any harm done to the Indian; but it is a guarantee to the Indian, that when his vote shall come to be revised by a county judge as the ultimate court of appeal he will get his rights. Now, I have but one simple statement to make, and it is that I think the sooner these 160 gentlemen, coming from all parts of the Dominion, get down to the fair, honest work of legislation, so much of which remains to us, and stop these obstructive tactics, which have been adopted in other Parliaments, and which have been of no credit to them, but which, happily, have never yet, in our Canadian Parliament, attained, until the present time, such force and strength as they have attained elsewhere—the sooner we set ourselves to the work of legislation that we have before us the more shall we heighten our own self respect, and gain the respect of the country at large.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Mr. Chairman, as it is now approaching Sunday morning, and as I do not suppose it is the desire of the House, unless it be the particular wish of hon. gentlemen opposite, to continue the debate after twelve o'clock, I rise to say a few words. As I understand, on Friday morning last, the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) moved an amendment to this paragraph of the second clause. It was discussed from Friday morning until this morning, about ten o'clock, when the hon. member for South Brant (Mr. Paterson), desiring, apparently, to have some rest, and desiring that the members of the committee should have some opportunity of considering the arguments that had been used in favor of the proposition, and in favor of the amendment, moved that the committee rise and report progress, and ask leave to sit again. We are bound to suppose that the hon. gentleman was sincere in making the motion; we are bound to suppose that his friends who spoke on the same side were anxious to carry that motion; we are bound to suppose that they thought there should be time for reflection, for consideration of the arguments on both sides, and for rest; yet, strange to say, every hon. gentleman on that side who spoke afterwards refused to allow that motion to be put. Again and again did the Chairman try to put that motion, and for the purpose of allowing it to be discussed not a single gentleman on this side of the House said a word; and yet one member after another on the Opposition side rose and spoke for the purpose of preventing the putting of the motion of the hon. member for South Brant, that the committee rise and report progress. What was the reason the hon. gentlemen did so? We know from the speeches that were made, which were not directed to the question, that we had spoken long enough, and that it was time to go to rest. But after the amendment was put they argued on the original question, so far as the argument